



TRRA INC NEWSLETTER

April 2021

12 April 2021 General Meeting

TRRA General Meetings will be held in the Nelson Bay Bowling Club in the Nelson Room on the ground floor commencing at 7.00 p.m. Covid 19 limitations will still apply.



Landslip, Teramby Road, Nelson Bay (now cleared)



Flooding, Dowling Street, Nelson Bay

A Natural Disaster Declaration has been made for Port Stephens . Details of assistance available [HERE](#). We appreciate that there are likely to be implications for Council's finances.

TRRA INC GENERAL MEETING
Monday 12 April 2021, 7.00 pm
AGENDA

Guest Speaker: Frank Future, Managing Director, Imagine Cruises, President of the Marine Parks Association, Treasurer on the Board of Directors, Port Stephens Tourism.

Topic: Issues arising from Increasing Jet Ski Activity on Port Stephens

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous meeting ([HERE](#))
3. Business Arising
4. Correspondence In and Out
5. Business Arising from Correspondence
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Reports
 - Tomaree Gateway Strategy (BW)
 - Meeting with PSC Planners- procedures (NW,JJ)
 - Projects from Nelson Bay Public Domain to be funded from \$5 million loan (NW,JJ)
 - Jet ski controls (BW,GW)
 - Design of amenities Block Little Beach
8. Planning. TRRA Current Issues - DAs of Interest
9. General Business

NEXT MEETING: Monday 7 June 2021

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Bravery Medal for Nigel Waters

TRRA Committee member Nigel Waters has been recognised with a bravery medal for his work on the Marine Rescue boat Daniel Thain in January 2016 in assisting water police with towing a disabled yacht in treacherous cyclonic conditions and heading back out to sea to join efforts in searching for a missing sailor.

Congratulations Nigel!

Nelson Bay Crane

At its January TRRA committee meeting concerns were raised in relation to the extended period that the yellow crane had remained on a Church Street building site. The Council has advised that the crane has been inspected in accordance with the regulations and can remain in place.

Strategy to enhance the Gateway to the Bays.

Representatives of TRRA and Business Port Stephens were invited to meet with senior Council officers on 9 March to discuss our proposal for a strategy to enhance the approaches to the Tomaree Peninsula, focusing on the Newcastle Airport precinct and Nelson Bay Road.

The officers reported on initiatives that had been commenced some of which were mainly NSW state responsibilities, such as the duplication of portion of Nelson Bay Road and the Newcastle Airport Special Activation Zone.

The meeting resulted in positive discussion of opportunities and constraints. Council agreed to examine and list the possibilities of how the community and business groups can contribute to the big picture going forward in harmony with PSC .

Priorities for the implementation of the Nelson Bay Public Domain Plan

At its meeting on 9 February 2021

It was resolved that Council:

- 1) Borrows \$5 million over a maximum of 10 years to fund the beginning of the Nelson Bay Public Domain Plan and fund the construction of a new car park in Nelson Bay.
- 2) Repays the loan from the SMART Parking revenue collected in Nelson Bay.
- 3) Continues additional capital works, maintenance and marketing in Nelson Bay with the remaining SMART Parking revenue.
- 4) Continues Community Consultation regarding the allocating of the \$5 million loan in relation to:
 - i) Stages of the Public Domain Plan
 - ii) Additional car parking

TRRA when asked for a comment on this by the Examiner queried whether there was sufficient information on revenue potential from the paid parking scheme to support the borrowing scheme. We did welcome the offer to continue community consultation on the priorities for further implementation of the Public Domain proposals and on additional car parking.

The TRRA Planning Committee would very much appreciate receiving members' comments on these matters to assist in making a contribution to Council's coming consultations. A link to the Public Domain Plan is [HERE](#) (just scroll down to Public Domain Plan and associated documents).

TRRA is awaiting Council's invitation to comment on its proposals. We would welcome PSC's advice on the assessed need for additional car parking and its possible location.

Readers are reminded that resident and worker permits for free parking can be arranged online at <https://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/live/resident-services/roads/parking-in-port-stephens>.

Progress with Major State Initiatives

The December Newsletter reported on several major State level projects which are in the planning / assessment stage.

These include:

- Fingal Bay Link Road
- Nelson Bay Road Duplication
- NPWS Tomaree Coastal Walk

There is no further progress to report at this time. TRRA will maintain a watching brief of these key projects and report any significant developments in our future communications.

The Tomaree Headland Heritage Group (THHG) has advised of welcome confirmation of the NSW Government and Opposition's intention to retain the site of Tomaree Lodge in public ownership. SEE Attachment for copies of correspondence from our local member Kate Washington and the Department of Communities and Justice

We have informal advice that the remaining five residents of the Lodge will be relocated in the next few weeks.

Proposal of a New Amenities Block Little Beach

Council has announced that it intends to replace the existing block with a building having a similar design to that at Robinson Reserve, Anna Bay. This involves outdoor showers and no change rooms. One reason given is that the recently designed buildings cost much less to maintain.

A number of perceptive locals have queried whether Council has considered the needs of the locals and visitors at Little Beach. In peak times visitation is at a high level and families, in particular, appreciate the indoor change room facilities. In addition the buildings were renovated not so long ago and appear to be in reasonable condition.

We understand that Council staff will revisit the design concept.

Jet Ski Controls

There has been a number of local press articles raising concerns about the rapid growth in jet ski activity in Port Stephens. Problems relate to potential impact on marine life especially dolphins, excessive speeds and noise and conflict with other watercraft and swimmers.

TRRA supports a review of these problems by responsible authorities with the view to investigating whether additional controls and/or enforcement measures are needed.

Your comments via our Website/Facebook or directly by email to the Secretary would be appreciated.

Our Guest Speaker, Frank Future, will provide first hand observations on this matter.

Planning Report April 2021

There have been very few DAs of interest over the past two months, with none requiring a submission. However the planning committee (a warm welcome and thanks to our new member Betsy) has been busy meeting with the Council Planning section and reviewing the extensive documents relating to the two sand mine proposals within our general area.

Bobs Farm Sand Mine

The exhibition of the proposed mine DA in early 2019 attracted over 240 submissions strongly objecting to the proposal from the general public and 13 from community groups and public agencies, including Port Stephens Council and Hunter Water.

The applicant has responded to issues raised by the submissions, but the NSW DPE has requested further information from the applicant which is due on 23 April 2021.

One welcome change to the proposal is that the truck exit route will no longer be onto Marsh Road near the primary School, with a new acceleration lane to be constructed for dispatch trucks to merge to Nelson Bay Road. The trucks will still be required to travel east to then do a U-turn at the roundabout intersection with Port Stephens Drive.

TRRA remains very concerned about the cumulative impact of an extra 200 trucks per day (one truck every 3 minutes) along Nelson Bay and Cabbage Tree Roads, the loss of koala and other wildlife habitat and the extraction of sand to a depth of 16m below the groundwater table.

Holcim Salt Ash Sand Quarry Expansion

TRRA attended an information session on the 29th March 2021 for interested community members on the proposed expansion of the Holcim sand mine which was purchased from Sibelco in early 2020. The mine is located at the southern end of Oakvale Drive, between the two Macka's sand mines.

SEARs have been issued and it is expected the EIS and supporting documents will be ready for public exhibition towards the end of this year.

Currently the proposal is for an increase from approximately 180,000 tonnes per annum of construction sand to 550,000 tonnes with another 200,000 tonnes of

specialised sand being imported for processing from other quarries at Tanilba Bay, Anna Bay and Cabbage Tree Road.

The sand is also proposed to be extracted to up to 35m AHD below the water table, currently there is no sand mines operating below the water table.

Webinar Strategic Planning - Port Stephens Place Census to be discussed Thursday April 8, 12.00 – 1.00 pm

Port Stephens will be a case study together with the Surf Coast Council.

(Surf Coast is located in an area southwest of Melbourne based around Torquay and Lorne. The famous surfing spot Bells Beach is a major attraction).

It may therefore be interesting for TRRA members to register for the webinar.

You may register for or the webinar [HERE](#)

I checked the PSC website and found the following:

item<https://haveyoursay.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/portstephens-liveability-index>. This refers to a place census conducted in September/October last year. Open this URL for details of the project which says the results were to be reported in November 2020. Council this week advised that this report will soon be published.

Geoff Washington
TRRA Media Officer

See below for attachments

Attachments



Kate Washington MP

Member for Port Stephens



23 March 2021

Rec
30/3/21

Mr Peter Clough
President
Tomaree Headland Heritage Group Inc
PO Box 6
NELSON BAY NSW 2315

Dear Peter

You may recall that in December 2020, a spokesperson for the NSW Government was asked about the future of the Tomaree Lodge site and was quoted as saying the Government had *"previously committed that the site will be available in the future for public use."*

As members of your group would be aware, the bipartisan commitment at the 2019 election was for the site to remain in public ownership, not just available for public use.

I raised this matter with the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, The Hon. Gareth Ward MP, whose Department currently holds the title to the land.

I have received the enclosed response from the Department's Executive Director Infrastructure & Assets, Ms Katherine Tollner.

I am pleased to have a written guarantee that the Government previous commitment stands. I wanted to share this response with your members for their information and records.

If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office by emailing portstephens@parliament.nsw.gov.au or calling 4987 4455.

Yours sincerely

Kate Washington MP
Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage
Shadow Minister for Rural Health
Member for Port Stephens

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Communities
& Justice

EAP20/19051

18 March 2021

Ms Kate Washington MP
Member for Port Stephens
PO Box 82
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324

Dear Ms Washington,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 December 2020 to the Hon Gareth Ward MP, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services about Tomaree Lodge. The Minister appreciates the importance of the matters you raise and has asked me to respond. I apologise for the delay in this response.

I would like to confirm that there is no change in the government's position on the future ownership of Tomaree Lodge in that it will remain in public hands.

If you would like more information, please contact Craig Heinjus, Director Infrastructure Operations at email Craig.Heinjus@justice.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Tollner'.

Katherine Tollner
Executive Director
Infrastructure & Assets

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